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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 000858

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/15/2015

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SUBJECT: BAHRAIN CENTER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS LOSES APPEAL CASE

REF: MANAMA 823

Classified By: A/DCM Hallie Hahn for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

11. (C) The Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) lost its appeal to re-open June 14. The Center, which the GOB dissolved in September 2004, has the right to make one final appeal in the Court of Cassation. BCHR members stated both publicly and privately that they probably would not register a case with the Court of Cassation as they believe the judges would be influenced by politics rather than the law. BCHR President Nabeel Rajab told PolOff that he and other board members never expected the courts to side with the Center, but they were encouraged by Amnesty International to appeal anyway. Rajab said the BCHR would continue its activities despite recent warnings from the GOB that it must cease all activities or risk prosecution (reftel).

MONROE